

Applicant: John David Breiten
Application No.: 10/815,179
Response to Office action mailed Nov. 27, 2006
Response filed February 27, 2007

Remarks

Claims 1–5, and 19–22 remain pending in the application. Claims 6–18 are canceled. In the Office action dated Nov. 27, 2006, claims 1–2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toivanen (WO 99/60207)(Publ. date: November 1999). Claims 3–5 and 19–21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toivanen.

The courtesy extended to applicant's counsel by Examiner Mark Halpern in the telephone interview conducted on Feb. 20, 2007, is acknowledged with appreciation. During the interview claim 1 and the reference Toivanen were discussed. The examiner made several suggestions: that the preamble should talk about the doctor blade body, and that the blades should be claimed as not of equal lengths and that the claim limitations be stated as structural limitation as opposed to process limitations.

Claim 1 has been amended to implement the suggestions made by the examiner. The preamble breathing life and breath into the claim sets forth the relationship between the doctor blade and the doctor blade body. The database contains certain kinds of data, namely instructions for cutting. The doctor blade body has indicia (i.e., identifying marks, or indications) which together with the database delimit (i.e., define, demarcate) said plurality of doctor blades of different lengths as overlapping portions of the doctor blade body. "Delimit" is not herein a process step, but in the sense of "mark the boundaries of" is descriptive of the structural arrangement and type of the indicia, and their relation to the database data. Data items in a database and identifying marks on a doctor blade body are structures, and these structures are claimed with a certain relationship. "Delimit" in this sense is not a process step, in the same way that it is not a process step to claim a flange which "extends" upwardly from a member.

Claim 2 claims that the database is incorporated in the indicia, i.e. the doctor blade body has upon it indicia (identifying marks) which delimit (demarcate) a plurality of doctor blades of different lengths as overlapping portions of the doctor blade body. The claiming approach is similar to that of how a ruler could be claimed i.e. marking arranged according to a certain limitations which have an advantage.

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Claim 3 claims the database as separate from the indicia, and claim 22 claims the database as a writing.

Claim 4 claims the doctor blade body as illustrated in FIG. 1 wherein the delimited doctor blades of different lengths are nested.

Claim 5 claims rivets positioned relative to the ends of the delimited doctor blades.

Claim 19 claims the indicia having the form of a number line as illustrated in FIG. 2.

Claim 20 claims the indicia for performing no other function but delimiting the doctor blades.

Claim 21 claims that one of the indicia delimiting each of two doctor blades in the doctor blade body incorporates a doctor blade body end as indicia i.e., the ends of the doctor blade body are part of the indicia which define the overlapping doctor blades.

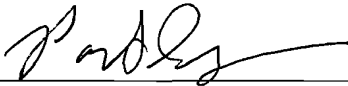
During the interview Toivanen was discussed and it was agreed that the reference does not show doctor blades of different lengths as part of the same reel of material. Further, the claims as amended require the doctor blades to be of different lengths and to overlap, as delimited by the claimed indicia, this nowhere suggested Toivanen. WO 99/45197 teaches cutting doctor blades from a doctor blade roll. But the doctor blade roll is not marked with indicia and thus the doctor blades do not overlap, and are only delimited by cutting. Thus the doctor blades cut from the roll of WO 99/45197 are sequential and do not have indicia or overlapping portions as claimed. Further, rivets as set forth in claim 5 are not present in the doctor blade roll of WO 99/45197.

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Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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